



My Garden

The early years.....

We bought the house in 2000, and inherited a pretty bare garden. Nothing but conifers in the front garden, and out the back, two ornamental plums. That was it. We didn't waste any time getting

started on creating an upper storey. The house faces west, and the heat inside the house was incredible. We planted a variety of Eucalypts, and Acacias, in order to create a speedy canopy to establish the rest of the garden under.



Pictured above is the garden in 2002. Just getting started...

RIGHT: 2005. Trees are growing quickly, and are underplanted with grasses and grassland plants.





2007. Upper storey is now well established, so plants in the understorey are taking off. Heat within the house is now drastically reduced.

How the garden has evolved since the early years....

As the upper storey gained momentum, I ended up with quite a lot of shade. I started removing some of the small eucalypts and Acacias, and planting more shade tolerant species. Grasses were slowly removed, as the garden no longer had the sun required to keep the grassland looking its best.

These days the garden is a shady paradise. Somewhere to hangout without getting sunburned! There are many spaces to sit, which all serve their purpose throughout the seasons.

I am an avid plant collector, which is probably obvious given the lack of mass planting. Space is precious to a plant collector, so often I will only have 1 or 2 of a species. I use other elements to tie the garden together: The old Canberra red bricks in the front garden provide interest, continuity, and a bit of local history. They give structure to a rambling, bitsy garden. Small areas of lawn give us somewhere to sit..... a small patch of lawn is rather lovely, just to enjoy bare feet on.

River pebble is used front and back. It creates a low cost, permeable surface for the network of paths throughout the garden, and is really easy to look after. I've used this surface more through the really shady parts of the garden, as it is a nice light surface in dark spots.

I hope you enjoy strolling through the garden!